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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for the detailed remarks and allowance of claims 1-8 and 13-17. Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been amended, and new dependent claims 21-23 have been added. New claim 18 is allowable, as it is original claim 10 represented in independent form. Accordingly, claim 18 and dependent claims 19 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

The examiner rejected independent claim 9 as being anticipated by Nishikawa, et al. under 35 USC 102(b).

Claim 9 has been amended to recite a "cable-securing feature," which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Nishikawa, et al. The examiner points out that Nishikawa, et al. discloses a latch bracket cable holder [cover section] (73) and door latch (33) (see Figure 10). The cover section (73) covers a cable rod for the purpose of making the cable rod inaccessible from outside the vehicle (see paragraph 48, line 20). Other than stating the function of covering the cable rod, Nishikawa et al. does not recite any feature or structure that secures the cable rod within the cover section (73) to, for example, reduce vibratory movement of the cable rod.

Unlike Nishikawa, et al., amended claim 9 includes a latch bracket cable holder with a cable-securing feature for securing the cable rod within the latch bracket cable holder. Dependent claims 10-12 and 21-23 further define various structural aspects of the cable-securing feature. Accordingly, claim 9, dependent claims 10-12, and dependent claims 21-23 are properly allowable under 35 USC 102(b).

Fees in the amount of \$350.00 for the additional claims may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account

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No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on January 3, 2005.



Laura Combs